

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masato KURIHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1793

Application No.: 10/561,955

Examiner: J. LI

Filed: January 23, 2006

Docket No.: 126435

For: ELECTRODE CARBON MATERIAL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME, BATTERY ELECTRODE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME, AND BATTERY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Li during the June 15, 2010 interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, Applicants' representatives explained the distinctions of the present claims over Japanese Patent 2000-223121 (Kurihara) in view of Japanese Patent 2002-083595 (Sugano) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,340,670 (Takami), for example as detailed in the June 3, 2010, Amendment.

Applicants first argued that Sugano introduces the sulfur to the carbon material in a solid state, while the present claims introduce the elementary sulfur or sulfur-containing functional compound including sulfur onto the surface of a carbon material with plasma processing. Thus, Sugano does not describe the addition of sulfur in any different physical state other than a solid state. Additionally, Applicants argued that the Sugano method may

have sulfur at or near the surface of the carbon material, but would not introduce sulfur onto the surface of the carbon material.

Applicants next argued that neither Kurihara nor Sugano describe a thermal plasma process being carried out on the carbon material. The present claims recite the elementary sulfur or sulfur-containing functional compound including sulfur is introduced onto the surface of the carbon material by thermal plasma processing and is thus distinguishable over the Sugano method that uses a heat treatment process.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 23, 2010

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